

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SR-02 AID-20 IO-14 OMB-01 CIAE-00

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SUBJ: REFUGEE MOVEMENTS

1. RECENT GOVERNMENT MILITARY OPERATIONS HAVE RESULTED IN SUBSTANTIAL INFLUX OF REFUGEES IN SEVERAL PROVINCES. THE TWO LARGEST MOVEMENTS HAVE BEEN IN PURSAT AND KOMPONG CHHNANG. IN PURSAT PROVINCE, DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST, GOVERNMENT FORCES LAUNCHED THEIR OPERATIONS COVERING AN AREA APPROXIMATELY 30 KM WEST AND SLIGHTLY SOUTH OF THE PURSAT PROVINCIAL SEAT. REFUGEES ARE STILL COMING IN AT THE RATE APPROXIMATELY TEN FAMILIES A DAY. TO THE END OF AUGUST, 9,500 PEOPLE HAD BEEN REGISTERED BY THE PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES. CARE IS DISTRIBUTING TO TO THESE NEWLY ARRIVED REFUGEES WHILE WVRO AND CRS ARE ASSISTING IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS WHERE REFUGEES DISPLACED DURING PREVIOUS MONTHS ARE LOCATED. ASIAN CHRISTIAN SERVICE IS TRYING TO GET THEIR MEDICAL TEAMS INTO ACTION IN PURSAT BUT THEY HAVE BEEN PLAGUED BY VEHICLE ACCIDENTS INVOLVING THEIR PERSONNEL AND OTHER LOGISTIC PROBLEMS.

2. IN KOMPONG CHHNANG A GOVERNMENT INITIATED MILITARY OPERATION SWEPT THROUGH A 600 SQ. KILOMETER AREA APPROXIMATELY 30 KMS. SOUTHWEST OF THE PROVINCIAL CENTER WHICH ALLOWED 14,500 UNCLASSIFIED

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PEOPLE TO MOVE FROM UNDER COMMUNIST CONTROL TO GOVERNMENT CON-

TROL. THE OPERATION WAS PLANNED TO COINCIDE WITH THE ANNUAL FLOODING OF THIS AREA, WHICH NOT ONLY PREVENTED COMMUNIST FORCES FROM COUNTER-ATTACKING BUT ALSO ALLOWED THE PEOPLE TO USE THEIR TRADITIONAL SAMPAN-HOMES. THE CURRENT FLOWS NORTH TOWARD THE TONLE SAP AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, IS THE PEOPLE RODE THE CURRENT TO FREEDOM. CARE IS HANDLING FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS. THE PEOPLE ARE SHELTERED IN THEIR SAMPAN- HOMES AND APPEAR IN EXCELLENT HEALTH. SETTLEMENT OF THESE DISPLACED PERSONS WILL PROCEED WHEN THE PRESENT FLOOD WATERS RECEDE. FISHING IS THEIR MAIN OCCUPATION, THOUGH THEY HAD EXTENSIVE FARMS IN THEIR ORIGINAL HOME AREA.

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